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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/744,006 | 12/24/2003 | Keun-chul Kim | P24618 | 9414 |
| 7055 | 7590 | 07/11/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191 | | | GUTMAN, HILARY L | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3612 | |

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/744,006 | Applicant(s) KIM, KEUN-CHUL | |
| | Examiner Hilary Gutman | Art Unit 3612 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the well known prior art of Figure 1 in view of JP '388 and Korean Patent Publication No. 2002-045110.

The well known prior art of Figure 1 discloses a damper assembly of a glove box 11, comprising: a fixing member 13 fixed to the rear part of the glove box 11 by screws (not numbered but shown for extending through holes 14), the fixing member 13 having a fitting protrusion 16 formed integrally with the fixing member (as a unit) at one side thereof; and a damper 15 having a fitting piece (not numbered, but clearly shown in Figure 1) formed at one side thereof, the fitting protrusion 16 being fitted in the fitting piece of the damper 15 so that the damper is fixed to the fixing member 13.

The well know prior art of Figure 1 lacks the fitting protrusion being formed unitarily and in one piece with the fixing member at one side of the fixing member.

JP '388 teach a damper assembly for a glove box (B1, Figure 4), comprising: a fixing member 1 (Figures 1-2) fixed to a part of the glove box (Figure 4) inherently by screws (not shown, but capable of passing through two holes, best seen in Figure 1), the fixing member 1 having a fitting protrusion 4 formed unitarily and in one piece with the fixing member at one side of the fixing member; and a damper 2 fitting thereon.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the fitting protrusion of the well known prior art of Figure 1 to be unitarily formed in one piece as taught by JP '388 in order to prevent the need for an additional assembling step.

The well known prior art of Figure 1, as modified, lack the fixing member being made of a plastic material.

Korean Patent Publication No. 2002-045110 discloses a fixing member (such as plate 7) for a damper for a glove box as well as the damper itself being made of a plastic material.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the fixing member and damper of the well known prior art, as modified, out of a plastic material as taught by Korean Patent Publication No. 2002-045110 in order to decrease tolerance distribution and thus instability of the glove box and further to reduce manufacturing costs of the damper assembly.

With regard to claim 3, the fitting protrusion 16 has a substantially conical shape, a narrow end of which is insertable into the fitting piece of the damper, and the fitting protrusion has a broad end which prevents the fitting protrusion from disengaging the fitting piece of the damper after the fitting protrusion is inserted into the fitting piece.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hilary Gutman whose telephone number is 703-305-0496.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 703-308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

5. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents


Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9326, (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:

(703) 746-3515, (for informal or draft communications, please clearly label


Hilary Gutman
July 7, 2005

“PROPOSED” or “DRAFT”).